



"Southeastern Michigan's Internet Provider"

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Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530-0001
Via Fax (202) 616-9937

Dear Renata B. Hesse Esq.

First of all I would like to offer my support for the candidacy of Steve Satchell for the Microsoft Anti-Trust Compliance Committee. Mr. Satchell seems to have all of the requisite experience and knowledge to do the job along with the intestinal fortitude to take on Microsoft if need be. I don't believe there is a better choice!

Secondly I would like to voice my objections to the proposed settlement offer. This offer is a basically a capitulation to Microsoft. There is no effective barrier in the agreement to Microsoft continuing their current practices. Let me explain.

Microsoft argues that they must be allowed to continue to integrate their applications into their operating system. What will the ultimate result of this be? Microsoft's complete domination of the software-business both, operating systems and applications. This will be accomplished by incorporating all of the Microsoft applications into the operating system. Since most non-technical users have little idea how to eliminate programs from their computers the mere ability is not enough - the user should have the options presented to them in a forthright and direct manner forcing the customer to make choices - either Microsoft or someone else. I am currently forced to use Microsoft Word to be compatible with the rest of the world - I would rather use something else as I dearly hate the way the program works. Alas, I can't as Microsoft has become the default word-processor of the world with the notable exception of banks and law firms it would seem. How did this happen - whenever you bought a new computer a few years ago Microsoft Office was nearly always offered as a no or low-cost option - and nearly everyone took it. The result is that Microsoft no longer has any effective competition in the "productivity" software arena and Office is no longer free - in fact it is quite expensive. Do you think they will back off from this type of business tactic - not as long as the sun shines and the birds chirp!

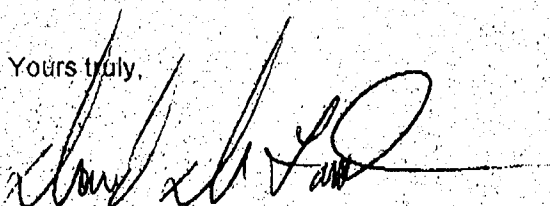
Another issue I have with the proposed settlement is the restrictions that are placed on the entities with which Microsoft must share their API's. In the explanations I have seen of the proposed settlement these entities are restricted to "commercial" ventures, implying for-profit status. This is simply wrong and way too restrictive. I believe that to be truly effective the parties

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with whom Microsoft should share their API's and the like should be broadly defined, maybe something like "any party or entity that could potentially benefit from such information". In other words this information should essentially be in the public domain.

I could go on and on about the questionable and underhanded tactics Microsoft has used over the years to further their monopoly but I think you see my point. This is a company that will stop at nothing to completely dominate the software industry – and now they have their sights set on my industry – the Internet. It would indeed be a shame if this opportunity to rein in this out-of-control behemoth were squandered. The Justice Department fought a good fight until the proposed settlement – please don't make the same mistake that former President Bush made in Iraq and stop the war before its objective has been reached. March on Redmond and don't stop until the scoundrels are cornered and say uncle! Then you need to keep a close eye on them to make sure that they mind their p's and q's.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David DeFord', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

David DeFord C.P.A.
Chief Financial Officer
Gateway Online